25741

Sectt. II-27—23,006—24-12-32.

Development (1933) Department.

1933 SERIES.

G.O. No. 1054

DATED 31-8-1933.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forests - South Kanara District
Concessions - Withdrawal -
Other orders - passed

Dev. 1648-I
26-7-33

C.F. 30.

FOREST **DEPARTMENT.**

Received ..... 19 . *Registered* ..... 19 .

Subject.

Forests - South Kanara District - Special concessions withdrawal.

ENCLOSURES.
No.
Spare copies

Ref. No. 1913/33.C1.

Station Madras *Dated the* 24th July 1933. 19

From (Name) A. Wimbush Esq., I.F.S.,
(Designation) Chief Conservator of Forests.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Development Department.

Sir,

I invite reference to Government's Memorandum No. 1870-1/32-4 dated 26-10-1932 and Memorandum No.2765-1/32-1 dated 5-12-1932, in which they agreed to the gradual withdrawal of the special concessions from the forests of the South Kanara district, beginning with six sandalwood reserves and six much abused fuel reserves farthest from the Sea in the North Mangalore division and one reserve in the South Mangalore division. These reserves have accordingly been closed to the concessions.

13.

2. In accordance with the decision of Government the Working Plans of both the divisions have prescribed the

gradual withdrawal of the concessions according to the sylvicultural needs of the forests. The District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, considers the withdrawal of the concessions essential in the case of all fuel coupes felled within the last six years and all plantations and regenerated areas, as prescribed in the Working Plan. The Collector has no objection to the proposal and the Conservator supports it. I am in entire agreement with the local officers and propose to approve their proposal in the sylvicultural interests of the forests. In view of the facts that Government have already approved of the gradual withdrawal of the concessions from the whole district, I request I may be empowered to give effect to their order according to the sylvicultural necessity of the forests, in consultation with the Collector. This will obviate considerable delay and unnecessary correspondence, which the submission of each individual case must necessarily entail. I request the favour of very early orders on the subject.

C. Sheldon 24.7.33
for Chief Conservator.

24/7

KS.24.7.33.

Development department.

Reserve forests - South Kanara - concessions - withdrawal.

C.No. 1648 I.

To Asst. Secy.

The concessions referred to are :-

(i) permission to clear undergrowth in all reserves (except those near the coast) to a distance of half a mile from the limits of private holdings ;

(ii) in the reserves near the coast, the clearance of undergrowth to a distance of 200 yards from the limits of private holdings ;

(iii) clearing of undergrowth in all areas sown with hapea ;

(iv) the free removal of --

(a) green manure leaves of unclassified species and dry leaves of all species and

(b) dead fuel.

No charges of any kind were to be made.

2. The remarks of several forest officers about the working of the concessions will be found in paragraphs 11-15 of the note prepared by the Chief Conservator of Forests in January 1930, at pages 86-97 of G.O.No. 1189 Dev., dated 10-6-1930. As the concessions were abused by the ryots the Chief Conservator of Forests recommended that the concessions might be withdrawn from 1st July 1930 and stated :- "All authorities are agreed that the grant of the concessions in regard to the removal of manure leaf and unrestricted cutting on the edges of a reserve forests was ill-advised and shortsighted, and although, by extending

time to time, the period within which the concessions might be made use of and by repeated warnings, no effort has been spared to give the people every chance of showing that these concessions could be worked successfully, it has long been evident that they must be put an end to." The Collector of South Kanara was of opinion that a clear case had been made out for the withdrawal of the concessions. The Government, however, on a consideration of the report issued orders that (" the existing practice in respect of removal of green leaf manure from reserved forests is called for" and " that the existing concessions in the matter of clearance of the other classes of undergrowth should continue without modification". Vide para 1(2) of G.O.No. 1189 Dev., dated 10th June 1930. On a reference from the Chief Conservator, he was, in O.M.No. 1823 I/30-2, dated 21-7-1930, asked to report cases of abuse of the concessions where they were sufficiently serious to require a reconsideration of the above orders.

3. While reporting on the matter in August 1932 the Chief Conservator recommended that the concessions in North Mangalore might " for the present be withdrawn in the case of the six much abused reserves which lie farthest from the sea and that the Veeracamba reserve in South Mangalore be closed to the concessions." The Collector stated :- " The present is not an appropriate time for the withdrawal of the concessions. Beginning from next year, they may be withdrawn gradually by degrees, commencing with the sixhmuch abused reserves in North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve forest in South Mangalore division. There is bound to be a hue and cry when these concessions are withdrawn. I would suggest that the ryots who will

be affected by the withdrawal be notified of the proposal at least four months ahead by beat of tom tom and publication in the gazette so that they may not make a grievance that the proposal took them by surprise." In O.M.No. 1870 I/32-3, dated 30th September 1932 the Chief Conservator was informed that the Government did not propose to withdraw any of the concessions then and that the matter would be considered later on in the course of the year.

4. In October 1932 the Chief Conservator reopened the question and stated : "In framing prescriptions for the areas dedicated to timber and fuel production the Working Plans officer has suggested a compromise in laying down that areas should be closed to the concessions for a certain number of years after working. But while this may be given a trial in the case of the timber working circles, which in any case are not so vulnerable as other areas in that they are more remote from centres of manure leaf consumption, the prescription will be ineffective if applied to the fuel forests which lie nearer the more thickly inhabited country and which must be worked on a short rotation. If the utility of the areas is to be maintained, and they are required for the production of wood both for local use and for the supply of Mangalore, they must be closed altogether to the exercise of the concessions. A decision must now be taken as to what purposes these forests are to serve ; they cannot serve both." He therefore asked for permission to close each coupe to the concessions as it is worked over and thereafter to keep it closed permanently. The Government thereupon ordered in O.M.s No. 1870 I/32-4, dated 26-10-1932,

and No. 2765 I/32-1, dated 5-12-1939, that beginning from 1933 the concessions should be gradually withdrawn and that a beginning should be made with the six reserves where the concessions were much abused situated farthest from the sea and the six sandalwood reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracamba reserve in the South Mangalore division, and that the people affected should be given intimation of the proposed withdrawal by beat of tom tom in the villages and by publication in the district gazette.

5. The Chief Conservator was also informed in March 1933 that any representations that might be received against the withdrawal of the concessions should be submitted to Government and that pending the issue of orders on the representations the orders of withdrawal should be deferred. Representations were received only in respect of the Todar reserve. The concessions were therefore withdrawn from the remaining reserves from 1st April 1933. The representations regarding the Todar reserve were considered and orders were issued in G.O.No. 682 Dev., dated 7-6-1933, withdrawing the concessions from that reserve also.

6. As anticipated, numerous representations were subsequently received against the withdrawal and there were several interpellations in the Legislative Council. Mr. A.B.Shetty asked in which reserves in South Kanara the Government have withdrawn the concessions and in which other reserves they propose to withdraw the concessions hereafter. In reply he was informed by the H.M. that the concessions would be withdrawn gradually in all reserves. When asked in a supplementary question whether in view of the representations received the matter

would be reconsidered he was told that it cannot be done unless new facts are placed before him.

7. It is now reported that the working plans of the North Mangalore and South Mangalore divisions have prescribed the gradual withdrawal of the concessions according to the sylvicultural needs of the forests. The District Forest Officer, North Mangalore, considers that the concessions should be withdrawn from all teak coupes felled within the last six years. The Collector of South Kanara and the Conservator support the District Forest officer. The Chief Conservator proposes to approve the proposal and requests that he may be empowered to do so.

8. The first point for consideration is whether such a general delegation may be made or whether the Chief Conservator may be asked to report the particular localities from which he proposes to withdraw the concessions from time to time, and whether the concessions were abused in those areas For orders.

9. On the merits of the case, reference is solicited to the Chief Conservator's remarks extracted in para 4 supra. In view of this it is submitted that the necessity for withdrawal of the concessions may be accepted.

10. If the concessions are withdrawn it is presumed that the Chief Conservator will give due notice of the proposal to the ryots affected and that the representations if any that might be received against the proposal will be submitted to Govt. for orders.

The Govt. have no doubt approved the gradual withdrawal

K Cf

of the concessions – vide O.M. dt 26.10.32 at W. page 51 of file 1426 dt 2.11.32. And the idea seems to be that actual withdrawal should be preceded by reasonable warning to the people of the locality.

The Ch. Conser. now proposes the withdrawal from the fuel coupes felled within the last ten years and from all plantations and regenerated areas as prescribed in the working plans. The withdrawal in these cases is in the interests of Sylvicultural operations in the area. I think the areas where abuses have set in and, as a consequence, withdrawal of concessions is considered desirable can be distinguished from areas where (Sylvicultural interests necessitate non-exercise of concessions

① [illegible]) the latter may be closed in accordance with working plans, a reserve being kept open of the area so closed.

② In the case of the former class of reserves, withdrawal, though approved by Govt, may, in view of the strong representations that have been made to Govt thro' petitions and interpellations, be done after getting the sanction of Govt and after giving due warning to the people concerned.

RR
21.6.33

10/

4 X

The two classes of cases may be distinguished as at ① & ② on the previous days & the procedure suggested by A.S. adopted

At 25/8

A.M.C. 2 nos 25-8-33.

At 25/8

25/8

Cir. 25-8-33
Rem. 25/8/33

TOA.S.

A draft order is submitted for approval.

28.8.33.

30/8/33

At 30/8

Sectt. II-5 (8)

Development DEPARTMENT.

	Date.	Initials.
When received for Fair-copying.		
When copied ..		
When examined ..		
When signed ..		
When despatched ..		

Forests - South Kanara District - Concessions - Withdrawal - Further orders - passed.

OM 1870 I/32-4 dt 26-10-32 — 151 (W)
— 2765 I/32-1 dt 5-12-32 — 167 (W)

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 682 Dev., dated 7-6-1933. 19 (V)

" " " " " 19

READ ALSO :—

C No. 1648-I/33 From the C.C.F. Ref. No 1913/33/C1, dated 24-7-33. 19

" " " " " 19

" " " " " 19

ORDER. No. 1054, dated 31. 8. 1933.

151 (W)
167 (W)

In O.Ms No. 1870-I/32-4, dated 26-10-32, and No. 2765-I/32-1, dated 5-12-32, the Government agreed to the gradual withdrawal of the concessions fx from the forests of the South Kanara district beginning with certain reserves In his letter read above the C.C. has proposed that in the sylvicultural interests of the forests the concessions may be withdrawn from all fuel coupes felled within the last six years and from all plantations and regenerated

12/ 4

areas as prescribed in the working plan. The areas in which the concessions are in force may be divided into two classes; areas where the concessions are abused and therefore their withdrawal is desirable, and areas where sylvicultural interests necessitate the non-exercise of the concessions. In regard to the latter, the C.C.F. is informed that the concessions may be withdrawn in accordance with the working plans, a report being submitted to Government specifying the areas so closed. In the case of the former, the Government consider that, in view of the strong representations that have been made to Government, the concessions may be withdrawn after obtaining the previous sanction of Government in each case and after giving due warning to the people concerned.

1624

X

A

30/8

1.9.32.

To the C.C.F.

29.8.33